



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 April 2023

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Transport Infrastructure, Sunshine Coast Mass Transit

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.05 am): Across the state we are building a public transport legacy on a scale that we have never seen before. This government is investing nearly double the amount of money than was being spent on transport infrastructure when we came to power after the savage cuts before we came to government. It is headlined by the transformational Cross River Rail project; the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program, which is building trains here in Queensland—and we know those opposite are opposed to that—a \$3.5 billion pipeline over the next four years in terms of rail; and record levels of investment in bus networks across Queensland. On top of this, our new network officer strategy will increase our frontline transport force, creating 100 new full-time jobs, something I know other states are now looking at.

Today I can update the House that the first wave of extra network officers hired off the back of our new funding commitment in January this year is nearing completion of their training and will be starting in service next month, making our network safer for both bus drivers and commuters. In the months to come we will be bolstering Townsville's bus network with more services more often in suburbs like Bohle Plains, Mount Louisa, Shaw and Burdell. That is not the only way we will be making public transport better.

Major work is ramping up on the Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 from Broadbeach to Burleigh as we see record levels of patronage on the existing light rail network on the Gold Coast. We are seeing more bus services than ever before on the northern Gold Coast, a location where we are also building three new train stations at Pimpama, Hope Island and Merrimac as part of our Cross River Rail project.

On the Sunshine Coast we have signed a preconstruction and design agreement on the Sunshine Coast rail duplication upgrade, paving the way for the next phase of major construction to ramp up next year. We also have two major planning studies underway looking at improved public transport on the Sunshine Coast, the third largest city in this state: the first, a planning study, co-funded by the Albanese federal Labor government—and aren't they doing well—on the direct Sunshine Coast line linking Brisbane to the beach in the north; and the second, a detailed business case for a mass transit network assessing five possible modes for the Sunshine Coast. Today I can announce that we have reached a memorandum of understanding with the Albanese federal Labor government and the Sunshine Coast Council on the business case, another important milestone for that project.

Across Queensland the Palaszczuk Labor government will be improving public transport every single day with record levels of investment and not cuts, which those on the other side of the chamber love.